

## Local's Mightiest...

(Cont. from Page 1)

ca, Deputy to the Panama National Assembly; Mayor Jose Dominador Bazan of the City of Colon; and Nemesio Lopez Zapata, Secretary General of the Panama Federation of Labor.

Among the other messages received were numerous cablegrams and letters from the International Union and other Locals in the United States. Some of these included messages from Abram Flaxer, President of the United Public Workers, CIO; Robert Weinstein, UPW Director of Organization, Thomas Richardson, Chairman of the UPW Anti-Discrimination Commission; U. P.W. Local 2 in Chicago; UPW Detroit Joint Board; UPW Locals in Region 4 and UPW UPW Local 1 in New York.

**Officers of Local Introduced**  
The officers of the Local Executive Board for the 1947-1948 term were introduced by Bro. Cleveland Green of the Balboa Chapter. In his introduction a brief resume of the work of these officers during the past year was delivered.

These officers were: Pascual Ampudia — President; Ernest Williams — First Vice-President; David Alexis — Second Vice-President Foster Bourne — Corresponding Secretary; Cecil Hall — Financial Secretary Treasurer; Vernon Harper, Medora Sangster, Manley Rodriguez — Trustees.

### President Ampudia Delivers Keynote Address

In welcoming the delegates to the Convention Local President Pascual Ampudia expressed his gratitude to them for the outstanding work done over the past year and urged them to continue their hard work.

However, he issued a grave warning to the effect that sympathy would not be extended to those who strive to impede the progress of the Union. He pleaded for unity among the members in the struggles of the Union and urged all members to strain every nerve to organize those who were yet unorganized.

### Reports Well Received

Five reports were delivered to the Convention. The Regional Director's Reports was delivered by Max Brodsky; the Officer's Report by Foster Bourne; the Financial Report by Cecil Hall; the Publicity Report by Wilfred A. Wason, and the Educational and Recreational Report by Manley Rodriguez.

The Report of the Regional Director was a very well compiled document and it covers every issue with which the Union has been confronted over the past year.

Considerable space is devoted to the rapping of the local press, especially two afternoon dailies, for their distortion of publications having to do with UPW.

The Report of the Financial Secretary was carefully prepared and showed the financial gains of the Union during the past year.

This Report has been referred to an auditing committee for study. The findings of the committee on this report will be submitted to the Local Executive Board after which it will be given to the chapters.

The Officers' Reports is a

historical document touching on every issue of the Local. This document will become a very important factor in any future labor history of the Canal Zone.

Wilfred A. Wason's Publicity Report dealt mainly on the Union's official news organ, "ACCION" and its editors.

### Resolutions Form Basic Platform

The Resolution Committee, chaired by Herman Moore of Balboa, performed an outstanding job in its preparation of a large number of resolutions that were adopted by the Convention.

These resolutions cover almost every phase of employment and living conditions which presently affect the employees in the Canal Zone.

Resolutions on housing, juvenile delinquency, tuition fees, Canal seamen, national culture, recreational facilities, democracy, night differential, injury compensation, five-day work week, merit increases, teaching of Spanish, promotions, wage increases, within grade salary advancements, retirement plan were among the ones that deal on the above mentioned conditions.

Other resolutions also embraced expressions of gratitude to the International Union, to all those Congressmen, newspaper columnists, and other distinguished person in the United States and to Regional Director Max Brodsky for their unselfish and sincere assistance to Local 713 in its campaign for better conditions for "silver" employees.

A resolution pledging to remain firmly behind Joe Sachs, whose name will "never be erased from the records of Local 713," and will neither be forgotten by the membership, in the criminal libel suit appeal presently in the New Orleans Court, was also adopted.

### Constitutional Changes and Amendments

The ticklish problem of changing or amending the By-Laws of the Local for its more effective operation was undertaken by the Constitution Committee of which Bro. Barnabas York of Gamboa was the Chairman.

Important changes and amendments, adopted by the Convention, have been made and their publication for membership information is forthcoming.

### Stirring Addresses From Guests

Addresses, pungent with thought and colorfully delivered, represented the outstanding contribution of our guests to the Convention.

The Hon. Jorge E. Illueca, Deputy to the Panama National Assembly stated that many Panamanians recognize the noble work in the civic, cultural, economic, and moral field that the Union has been carrying on.

He spoke of the need of a united front by all those pledged to fight for the abolition of discrimination and urged the delegates to stick to the fight because of the civic, social, and moral benefits that will accrue to all workers. The youthful Deputy and outstanding attorney was loudly applauded for his precise remarks.

Mayor Jose Dominador Bazan of the City of Colon and former Deputy to the Panama National Assembly journeyed

fifty miles to the Convention and the opinion of everyone hearing his address was that his presence thoroughly enhanced the occasion.

The Colon Mayor delivered an address of great significance in which he expressed the need for a CIO Union of "silver" important factor in any the many gains made by Local 713.

Proof of his sincerity in his connection with our Local was his outright disclosure that the CIO was the only union in the United States readily disposed to accept the application for affiliation of the "silver" workers.

Nemesio Lopez Zapata, Secretary General of the Panama Federation of Labor, and in whose name he spoke, delivered words of praise for Local 713 for its outstanding work in the fight for better conditions for "silver" employees.

### Elections Grand Finis

The Convention was brought to a colorful close with the election of officers.

Barring a couple of changes, re-elections were predominant.

Pascual Ampudia was returned to the presidency by a unanimous re-election.

The first vice-presidency provided a hot contest. Four candidates participated, namely; Ernest Williams, who sought re-election; Graham Lewis, Chairman of the Cristobal Chapter; Wilfred A. Wason, youthful Chairman of the Red Tank Chapter as well as of the Union's Publicity Committee, and Manley Rodriguez of Paraiso, previous trustee.

A considerable amount of discussion revolving around parliamentary procedures preceded the election of the first vice-president.

Nevertheless, when all was clear and quiet, Graham Lewis was able to garner thirty-eight votes to win out in a closely contested race. Ernest Williams collected thirty-three votes to finish second, while Wilfred Wason was third with twenty-six.

David Alexis was re-elected as Second Vice-President over Ernest Williams and Manley Rodriguez.

Foster Bourne polled the record high of seventy-six votes to assure his re-election as Recording and Corresponding Secretary over his lone rival, Erald Durant of Cristobal.

Like Pascual Ampudia, Cecil Hall was unanimously re-elected to the office of Financial Secretary-Treasurer.

Among the three trustees two of them, Vernon Harper and Medora Sangster, were re-elected, while Alfonso Alexis of Red Tank replaced Manley Rodriguez as the third one.

With the election of Local Board Officers completed, the Convention then proceeded to name the Chapter representatives to the Board.

With this done the Convention was brought to a close with the realization that a truly great job had been done.

## Nine Out Of . . .

(Cont. from Page 1)

payroll deduction system was discontinued.

Should the Administration decide to institute the proposed plan, this objection will certainly be carefully discussed with the proper authorities.



Joe Murrey, Balboa Chapter Vice-Chairman, produces a white dove during a "hot" period for the delegates, symbolizing peace and unity.

## Resolutions . . .

(Cont. from Page 3)

the spread of juvenile delinquency in the Canal Zone

Be it Resolved: That Local 713, in Convention assembled calls upon the Canal Zone Government to provide adequate recreational facilities in all "silver" communities in form of gymnasiums, playgrounds, and improved clubhouses.

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### RESOLUTION

#### On Promotion For Employees

Whereas numbers of experienced workers in every category are qualified for promotion within their agencies, and such workers have every right to expect that their experience entitles them to preference over outside employees, and

Whereas: Many government units do now employ outside personnel when qualified personnel is available within

their own unit, and have no systematic procedure for promotion from within, and

Whereas: Many government units which have promotion preference for filling permanent positions, do not fill temporary vacancies by this procedure, and

Whereas: Promotion preference would strengthen the merit system and improve the public service rendered and go a long way toward abolishing discrimination in filling vacancies; now therefore

Be It Resolved: That this Convention endorses qualified workers now employed, and pledges every effort to assure employees within agencies promotion on a non-discriminatory basis with adequate safeguards for filling all vacancies, permanent and temporary alike.

In cases where more than one employee is qualified, seniority should be the governing factor.

## Union Asks . . .

(Cont. from Page 1)

are exposed to constant health dangers. In this connection, they often required to handle the rotten carcasses of dead animals.

The Union asked for at least one grade increase for the Street Cleaners who are at present assigned to Grade two.

Under present policies employees assigned wholly to relief duty are given a grade equal to the arithmetic average of the grades of the employers relieved. The union contended that this policy is unfair since a grade five employee may be called upon to relieve a grade seven worker.

The union also stated: "Furthermore, the necessity to adapt one's self to changed conditions, hours, and days off imposes certain psychological disadvantages and frequently results in annoying inconveniences. Also, higher transportation expenses are usually encountered as the employee keeps moving every few months. In addition, it would appear that such an employee would be at a disadvantage on the question of seniority. Since he is connected to no single unit on a permanent status, he could hardly receive the same consideration on promotions as other employees. He would no doubt find himself passed over, again and again, in favor of other employees who had permanency in location.

## Richardson Sends . . .

(Cont. from Page 1)

nama, and (2) confirming action by the Congress of the United States.

Many of the Panamanian applicants qualified to the typists, stenographers, and clerk registers established by the 1947 examinations. Since that time the Civil Service Commission has repeatedly postponed the probational appointment of these qualified eligibles to positions now held by temporary and war service appointees.

If the Civil Service Commission does not utilize the registers set up by the 1947 examinations, the intent of Congress, as expressed most recently in H. R. 5524, will have been violated.

I am, therefore, writing to urge that the Civil Service Commission utilize the registers created by the examinations of 1947 through the immediate appointment of eligible applicants to positions held by non-qualified employees.

Sincerely yours,

Thomas Richardson  
Chairman  
Anti-Discrimination  
Commission.

"With these adverse considerations involved, it hardly seems just to apply the present policy in connection with relief duty grade determination. It is our opinion, that the disadvantages described above justify the addition of at least one grade to the arithmetic average of the grades of the relieved employee."